

Special Report

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State

MAGAZINE





IN OUR NEXT ISSUE: A Tropical Carnival

Santo Domingo's Carnival is the New World's first pre-Lenten festival, first celebrated in the 16th century in La Vega, about 1.5 hours north of Santo Domingo.

State

MAGAZINE

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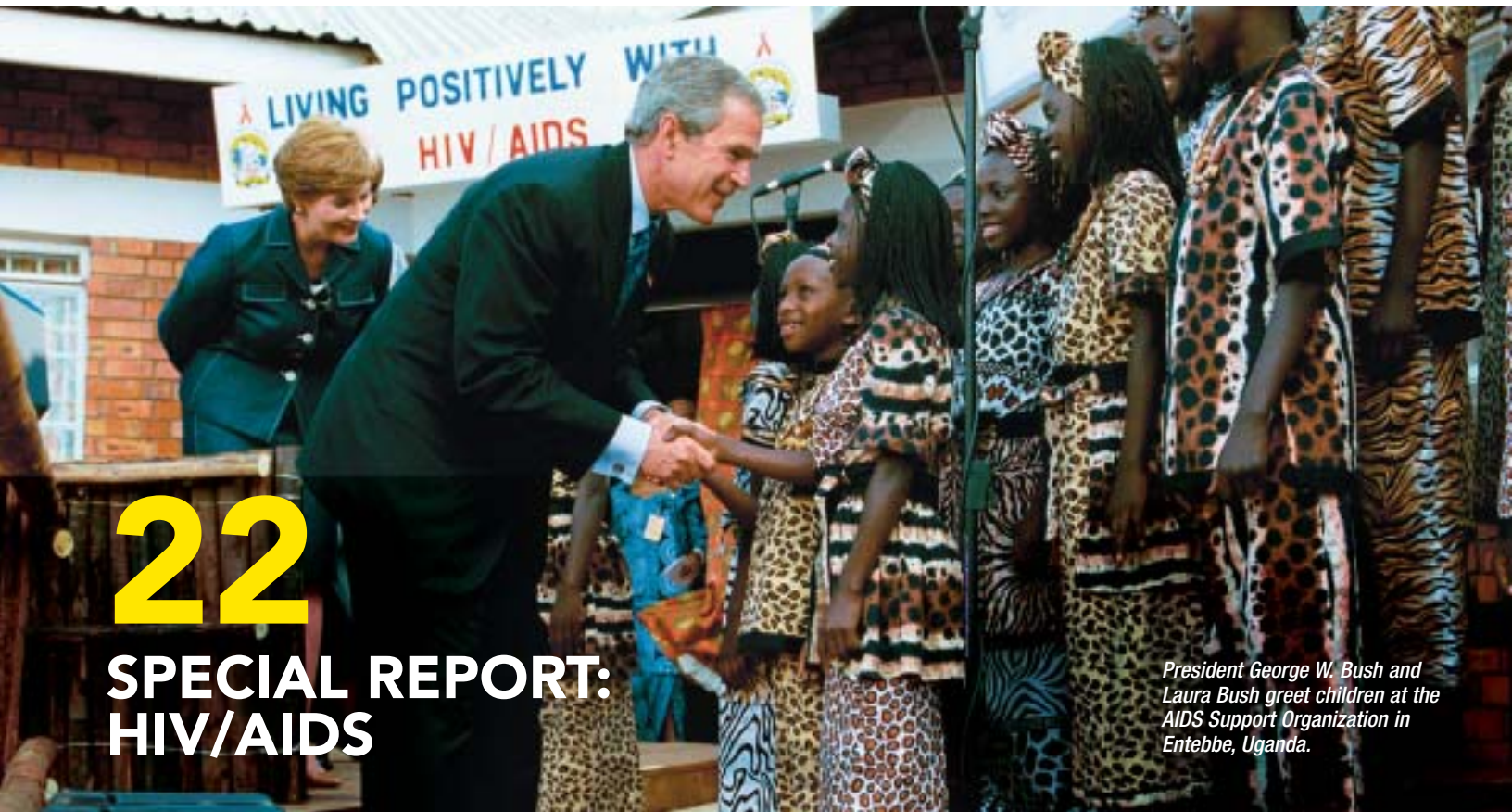
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President George W. Bush and Laura Bush greet children at the AIDS Support Organization in Entebbe, Uganda.

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ON THE COVER

A pinned red ribbon, the universal symbol of the fight against HIV/AIDS, stands in testimony to America's global struggle against the dreaded disease.
Photo by Getty Images.



Partners Against HIV/AIDS

Stemming the spread of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases is one of the great challenges of the 21st century. President Bush rec-

ognizes that HIV/AIDS is not only a global health issue but also a threat to international security—an epidemic that devours the social foundations of entire countries, leaving destitute and unstable states in its wake. As a result, President Bush has proposed, and Congress has approved, the emergency plan for AIDS Relief: a \$15 billion effort to combat this disease.

The men and women of the State Department, here at home and at our posts overseas, are laying a strong foundation for the emergency plan's future success. We are working to overcome the greatest challenge in implementing President Bush's initiative: the lack of human capacity and infrastructure to accommodate our investment in the hardest-hit nations. State Department and USAID personnel are identifying the best partners with the right capabilities on the ground so we can meet our ambitious goals for prevention, care and treatment. Consider three examples.

In Namibia, the U.S. Embassy supported a conference involving traditional healers to promote HIV prevention and care. At the conference, King Josiah Taapopi from northwest Namibia wore sackcloth to show solidarity with those suffering from the disease. He encouraged his country's religious and traditional healers to help overcome barriers to prevention, such as alcohol abuse, family violence and stigmatization.

In Guyana, Dr. Mike Sarhan, the USAID Mission Director in the country, and Minister of Health Dr. Leslie Ramsammy got tested together for HIV at an emergency plan-funded clinic. After giving thumbs-up upon receiving their results, both men urged every citizen to follow their example and know their status. Dr. Sarhan pointed out that, with the advent of antiretro-

viral drug treatment, HIV is no longer a death sentence. Not only was this event covered in the local media, but several members of the press actually sought testing on the spot.

In Zambia, the U.S. Embassy has coordinated an emergency plan response with the Kanyama clinic. Constance and her husband Silvester lost three children to HIV, and both suspected they were infected as well. They did not seek treatment, though, until Silvester could not walk and had to stop working. By the time Silvester began antiretroviral drug treatment, he had lost over 100 pounds and was near death. After three weeks of treatment, Silvester was sent home 25 pounds heavier and full of life.

When Silvester returned to work, he encouraged his wife to become an activist. Constance is now committed to educating people about HIV testing and treatment. In her words, "I cannot let someone die from ignorance."

In these and other countries, U.S. Ambassadors are successfully coordinating the efforts of several U.S. agencies in the fight against HIV/AIDS. For the broader campaign to be truly effective, however, it must be synchronized around the world. Information must be shared and best practices identified. This is the job of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, Ambassador Randall Tobias. Just this summer, Ambassador Tobias convened a conference toward this end in Johannesburg, South Africa, for all U.S. envoys serving in the strategic focus countries of the emergency plan.

The United States will never relinquish the offensive against HIV/AIDS. We will work until this horrible disease is eradicated everywhere. State Department and USAID personnel are fighting on the front lines of humanity's struggle against HIV/AIDS, and we can be proud of that. Each of us in the State Department family has a role to play in this campaign. With all of us pulling together, I know we will one day achieve a world free from the fear and devastation of this and other infectious diseases. ■

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FSI Adjusts the Light

Many thanks to FSI instructors Gene Kendall and Joan Yen for their accommodation during a recent leadership class. Because I cannot work in fluorescent light, they agreed to tutor me and another student a few hours a week for 10 weeks in my office, which is equipped with special lighting. We greatly appreciate such flexibility in meeting our unique training needs.

Susan Poulin
*Bureau of International
Organization Affairs*

Translators versus Interpreters

I am struck by the fact that an article seeking to give kudos to State's interpreters so frequently refers to them as translators in the photo captions. As you probably know, translators translate documents; interpreters interpret conversations. They are considered very different skills and in my experience I have found inter-

preters to be quite sensitive to the misnomer. I am referring to the July/August issue of State magazine; but this is not the first time I have noticed this inaccuracy.

John Negroponte
*U.S. Embassy
Baghdad*

Student Thanks FSI for Nursing Station

While on maternity evacuation in the states I was delighted to find that some of the ladies bathrooms at FSI were designated as "lactation stalls." These stalls were equipped with a place to sit, an outlet and often a place to put your breast pump. I think that FSI should be commended for offering a place to nursing mothers so they can comfortably return to work or training. It's nice to know that breast-feeding

mothers have some support in the workplace.

Sherry Keneson-Hall
*American Cultural Center
Conakry, Guinea*



Correction

Mr. Iqbal Chaudry's name was misspelled on page 26 of the July-August issue.

President Bush's last name was not capitalized in the caption on page 20 of the same issue.

FROM THE EDITOR

It's where German, Italian and Middle Eastern cuisine easily compete with native Cantonese. It's where life is a little easier and where China's global economy is booming. Guangzhou is also home to one of our largest consulates general.

From India to Haiti, the HIV/AIDS special report puts a face on a ravaging disease that spares no corner of the world. It also spotlights U.S. efforts to stem this scourge and treat those infected.

Diplomat Anthony Interlandi left his mark at Ft. Benning, Ga., where he designed and taught courses in democracy and human rights. His Latin American students couldn't get enough of John Locke and Thomas Jefferson.

A trip to Washington, D.C., won't be complete without a stop at the diplomatic museum. But don't mark your calendars yet. This multi-media facility opens its doors in 2007. After you've read what's in store, you'll know it's worth the wait.

It's done! Employees at the Charleston, S.C., financial center sure know how to celebrate their new workplace. The advanced facility has everything you'd expect and more in the heart of the Old South.

Going South

Florida Retirees Gather at Key West

They drove. They flew. Some took the ferry. But the goal of at least 80 Foreign Service retirees was to reach Key West, Fla. Then for three days they did what most everyone does at this southernmost tip of the United States: They ate. They drank. They all had fun.

What else should you do if you're retired?

The May weekend junket, organized by the Foreign Service Retirees Association of Florida, also drew retirees from Virginia and Georgia despite competing with Mother's Day and the Department's annual Foreign Affairs Day, which draws hundreds of retirees to Washington from across the nation.



From left, Vicky Rivera and Clara and Elias Padilla pause by the Harry S Truman Little White House.

Planned activities were minimal, according to Irwin Rubenstein, association chairman, who said the camaraderie was as uplifting as the weather—low eighties, low humidity, sunny and breezy.

"Some of us wandered Duval Street and other shopping areas," he added. "Others took the conch train around town. We all went down to Mallory Square on water's edge to watch the street entertainers."

Although informal, the trip featured two more serious attractions: the Harry S Truman Little White House and a presentation by *Washington Times* reporter Nicholas Kralev, who recently completed an eight-part series on the Foreign Service for the *Times*, interviewing more than 300 employees at 40 posts.

The Truman dwelling offered a fascinating insight into the former president's fondness for Key West. "He first used the commandant's house at the naval base and

quickly fell in love with the place," said Mr. Rubenstein, who retired in 1993 as the United States–Mexico border affairs coordinator. "Mr. Truman paid 11 visits to Key West during his presidency, often with his poker-playing buddies from the Senate and the Supreme Court."

The Key West trip is just one of five gatherings the group plans throughout the state each year. With nearly 850 members, the Florida association is one of the Department's most active retiree groups.



MARINE GUARD RAISES FUNDS FOR LOCAL CHARITY

It takes a special person to be a U. S. Marine. And those who guard our embassies and consulates around the world are carefully selected from that elite group.

In January, the U.S. Embassy in Luxembourg welcomed back its Marine security guard detachment.

Seven months after his arrival, Sgt. Michael Cruz, a Marine serving at the embassy, participated in a triathlon to raise money for a local charity. He and Deputy Chief of Mission Daniel Piccuta swam, biked and ran more than 25 km for DYSPEL, an organization that helps dyslexic and special needs children in Luxembourg.

Held in the historic city of Echternach near the German border, the triathlon began with a 750-meter swim, followed by a 20 kilometer bike ride and concluding with a 5 kilometer run.

TWELVE STUDENTS WIN CREDIT UNION SCHOLARSHIPS

The State Department Federal Credit Union has announced the winners of its 28th annual scholarship competition. This year's \$20,000 award fund was divided among 12 recipients: Kimberly Akern, Providence College, Public/Community Service Studies; Michelle Bernard, Strayer University, Computer Networking; Lanier Coles, Northwestern University, Healthcare Management/Marketing; Marifat Chapoteau, Marymount University, International Relations; B. Thomas Hail, Brigham Young University, Psychology; Mikia Heard, Ohio State University, Pre-Pharmacy; Sharnikya Howard, Bennett College for Women, Computer Science; Sarah Price, University of Maryland–Baltimore County, Health Administration & Policy; Carlena Solomon, Bowie State University, Sociology/Criminal Justice; Patrick Street, University of Portland, Spanish/Communications; Umar Wada, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Aerospace Engineering and Jennifer Warren, University of South Carolina, Nursing.

"We value education and assist our members by providing scholarships and education loans," said credit union President/CEO Jan N. Roche. Since 1976, the credit union has awarded more than \$300,000 in scholarships and the annual award has increased from \$2,000 to \$20,000.

To qualify, students must be credit union members and have completed at least 12 credit hours at an accredited college or university. The competition is open to both graduates and undergraduates who meet certain GPA and financial criteria. Each February, scholarship applications are available by mail, online, and at the credit union's five branches. Applications and transcripts must be received by mid-April.

Book Fair Set to Go

This month marks the 44th annual book fair sponsored by the Association of the American Foreign Service Worldwide Family. The sale, which raises scholarship money for Foreign Service dependents, began in 1960 when the organization collected 7,500 books and made \$1,160. Last year the sale raised \$82,439 after collecting more than 100,000 books.

Although profits are up, volunteers—mostly spouses of current or retired Foreign Service Officers—have declined, from 245 in 1986 to about 65 today.

The sale starts Oct. 15 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and continues Oct. 18–22 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for employees, spouses and guests. During two weekends, Oct. 16–17 and Oct. 23–24 the sale is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event takes place in the exhibit hall of the Harry S Truman Building.

Embassy Libreville Combines Fun and Safety

The embassy doctor was taking a staff member's blood pressure and the charge d'affaires was busy putting out fires. Just another day at a U.S. Embassy? Actually, it was Embassy Libreville's safety fair—the Department's first—and an annual event for the embassy.

In May, the embassy community came to the fair to learn how to make homes and offices safer. Volunteers handed out information and gave demonstrations at nine booths: residential and swimming pool safety, integrated pest management, office safety and ergonomics, safe lifting and carrying, proper ladder usage, fire safety, safe driving as well as health and security. The fair highlighted Safety Month, which featured residential and office inspections, administrative notices and awareness-building activities.

Set up with materials provided by the Safety Health and Environmental Management Office, the booths

used a variety of techniques. The doctor's booth featured a private consultation area and check-ups that included weight and blood pressure. At the ergonomics and office safety booth were brochures on setting up a workstation, safety checklists, and a model office. The lifting and carrying booth and the ladder booth offered demonstrations and hands-on practice of proper safety techniques. Of course, the most popular booth was the fire prevention booth. In addition to getting tips on fire safety, participants used fire extinguishers to put out real fires.

The event was a great opportunity for the embassy community to learn about health and safety in a relaxed and festive atmosphere.

Posts seeking advice on putting on a safety fair should call (703) 875-4137 or contact Michael Honigstein in Libreville, the post's occupational safety and health officer at HonigsteinMD@state.gov.

QUICK-STUDY CAMP BUILDS BRIDGES TO AMERICA

The 70 students from High School No. 20 in Ufa, the capital of the Republic of Bashkortostan in Russia, were nervous on the first day of their English-language summer camp.

What were these revolutionary new ways of learning English that their teachers—mainly alumni of American exchange programs—were introducing? And why was the U.S. government taking an interest in helping them—mere

Muslim teenagers in a far-off autonomous republic?

The camp was conceived by the U.S. Embassy in Moscow and Consulate General in Yekaterinberg as a pilot effort to reach out to youth in predominantly Muslim regions of southern Russia. Russia's Muslim

population is at least 14 million—larger than all the European Union countries combined. And while trends show that Muslims make up an ever-increasing share of Russia's population, they're difficult to reach because the population is concentrated in rural areas.

The 17 camp staff included English teachers and facilitators, American teacher-trainers and representatives from other programs, such as Camp Counseling USA.

Using alumni of Fulbright, International Visitor and other exchange programs gave the project an American "feel," while holding down costs to a modest \$12,000. Teachers used humor, games, videos and songs to bolster the students' confidence in their ability to communicate.

The students' excitement quickly overcame their initial anxiety. They made new friends and learned a lot about American culture and everyday life. And although the camp has ended, some 50 students from this project will be invited to continue studying English and American culture for two years at the American-Bashkir Intercollege, with financing from State's micro-scholarship program. Next year, the mission is planning a project to reach even farther into Russia's rural areas.



Three summer camp English-language students use computers to polish their skills.



Enhanced Employee Profile Benefits Employees and the Department

“We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing, while others judge us by what we have already done.” Today’s State

Department has taken Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s observation to heart. Like leading companies and institutions, we are working to make the best use of our work force as we seek to master the challenges of the future.

We have known for many years that our people have a wealth of skills and knowledge that official job histories do not capture. Our people also have been flexible in responding to crises and unforeseen demands overseas and in Washington. We now have a way to identify those abilities more systematically. Our new tool is Employee Profile Plus, which I trust you have already heard about.

Most of us are familiar with our employee profile, the list of jobs held, training taken and other basic details like grade and security clearance. We can look up our own profile on HR online and print it or e-mail it. Many people use their profile when applying for a new position. EP+, also available on HR online, now allows employees to add information that complements their official employee profile.

Through a quick and easy online interview, you can document your expertise in different countries, organizations, languages, occupations and competencies. So if you work on Brazil in Washington but were never assigned there, you can now document that fact. Or if you gained familiarity with an organization like the Arab League or the U.S. Senate before joining the Department, you can put that on record. If you learned Japanese in school but never tested at FSI, you now can rate your skill. And if you are an accountant or pilot or editor, you can list that occupation.

EP+ competencies are similar to skill codes, but more specific. They describe what you know how to do. You can select from nearly 200 competencies, broken down by general fields such as economics, intelligence, management and public administration and further divided

into subjects within those fields. Because no list is perfect, the application lets you e-mail suggestions to the EP+ help desk so that new competencies can be added.

We have launched EP+ to get a better picture of our work force and to help us improve our operational readiness. Diplomacy will continue to evolve and promises to be even more fast-paced and varied. Many countries are failing to hold together, with civil strife or humanitarian disaster often playing a role. Transnational threats and rising expectations are putting global issues higher on many agendas. And technological progress is accelerating information and communication, pushing governments to respond faster.

We can anticipate task forces and field deployments that require staff with diverse skills on relatively short notice. EP+ will help us identify qualified people. In addition, EP+ will help us assess our work force so we can better project future demands and training needs. It also will help with specific requests, such as short-term vacancies in a post or bureau. It is important to emphasize that assignments will not result automatically from EP+, which will provide only lists of people to consider. Our standard procedures and precepts remain in effect for assignments, details and similar actions.

As employees seek to market themselves, EP+ offers a way to “tell your story” in terms relevant to Department managers. You can update your self-assessed expertise at any time. Your official data will continue to be drawn from a separate database and will remain unchanged. EP+ presents a combined view, showing the official and self-assessed information together.

The Department is asking all Foreign Service specialists and generalists, all Civil Service employees and all noncareer political colleagues to complete EP+. It offers enormous potential for us as a Department and as individuals to meet tomorrow’s challenge as we take account of today’s talented work force. I am very enthusiastic about EP+, and think you will be too as soon as you have completed it. Although we know what you have done, we also want to know what you feel capable of doing. Thank you for your cooperation and support in this endeavor. ■

A tree-lined drive along one of the rivers that crisscross Guangzhou, one of China's main industrial centers.



POST OF THE MONTH



Guangzhou

By Arend Zwartjes

Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong Province, sits at the confluence of three rivers as they flow into the South China Sea.

As the birthplace of Sun Yat-sen, a revolutionary statesman who championed democracy and founded the Chinese Republic in 1912, South China's Pearl River delta is a crucial region of modern China. At its center lies the bustling, trade-hawking, chaotic, pollution-ridden city of Guangzhou. The City of Flowers—also known as the Five Ram City—is home to one of the largest U.S. Consulates General, one that serves 178 million people, a population roughly equal to Western Europe's.

The consular district includes the Chinese provinces of Guangdong, Fujian and Hainan (the island where the U.S. Navy's EP-3 reconnaissance plane landed in 2001) as well as the provincial-level Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

During the first 30 years of the People's Republic, South China remained relatively undeveloped economically. This changed in 1978 when Deng Xiaoping chose Guangdong and Fujian as experimental areas for his reform policy. Since that time, growth has been spectacular, averaging well over 10 percent per year. Guangdong and Fujian together now account for 16 percent of China's \$1 trillion economy and about 40 percent of China's international trade. They're also popular destina-

Happy families await immigrant visas for their newly adopted children. Guangzhou issues more orphan visas than any U.S. post in the world.



PHOTOGRAPHS: (ABOVE): DAVID KORNHAUSER; (BELOW): JIM TURNER

tions for foreign investment, particularly from nearby Taiwan and Hong Kong. Year by year, the differences between Guangzhou and its neighbor Hong Kong have narrowed as the two economies become more integrated.

The identity of Guangdong Province has been largely shaped by the Cantonese, a people with their own language, customs and a distinct history of interaction with the Western world. Historically, most Chinese immigrants to the United States have also come from Guangdong and Fujian Provinces.

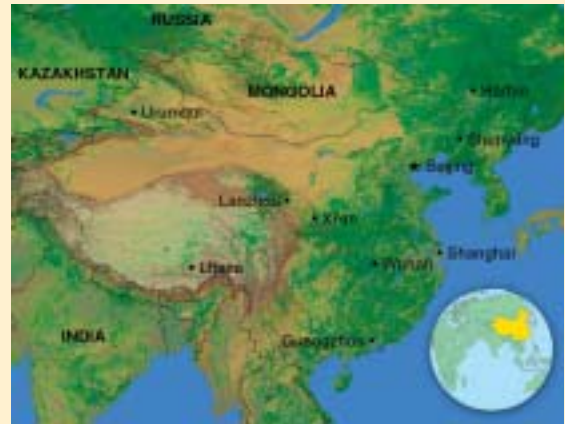
Calling itself the "Hawaii of China," Hainan is a small tropical island with beautiful climate, tropical scenery and agriculture and a growing offshore oil industry. Guangxi is a larger, poorer and mostly agricultural region bordering Vietnam. Guilin, a city in Guangxi with spectacular mountain scenery, is a popular tourist destination.

The consulate in Guangzhou is the only post in China issuing immigrant visas for orphans adopted by Americans, nearly 7,000 each year. The volume of foreign adoptions in China is the highest in the world. South China's rising incomes and expanding commercial and social ties between China and the United States are increasing the consulate's visa workload. Consular officers make periodic outreach trips beyond Guangzhou to offer services to U.S. residents. One special task in Fujian Province is to locate and contact the large number of U.S. citizen children being cared for by grandparents while their parents are working in the United States.

Given the multitude of economic changes under way in South China, the consulate's economic/political section spends much of its time monitoring China's implementation of World Trade Organization regulations. The section's officers encourage enforcement of WTO rules, educate the Chinese about laws governing intellectual property rights and promote U.S. trade. They report on labor, human rights, religious freedom and health issues, including environmental pollution and diseases.

With limited resources, the Foreign Commercial Service Office actively promotes the export of goods and services from the United States and assists U.S. companies in doing business in China. The consulate's agricultural trade office was the first Foreign Agricultural Service trade office to open in China, in 1984. The office has contributed to a dramatic increase in U.S. agricultural exports, making China the fourth-largest market for U.S. agricultural exports. South

AT A GLANCE



Country name: China

Capital: Beijing

Government: Communist state

Independence: 221 BC (unification under the Qin or Ch'in Dynasty; People's Republic established October 1, 1949)

Population: 1.3 billion

Religions: Taoist, Buddhist, Muslim and Christian (officially atheist)

Land mass: 3,705,400 square miles

Approximate size: Slightly smaller than the United States

Currency: yuan (CNY)

Per capita income: \$1,090

Export partners: U.S. (21.5%), Hong Kong (18%) and Japan (14.9%)

Highest point: Mount Everest (29,035 feet)

Lowest point: Turpan Pendi (minus 505 feet)

SOURCE: CIA World Factbook 2003



Above: Members of the consulate's adoption section discuss a case. They are, from left, FSN employees Danielle Zheng, seated, Teresa Liu and Dora Li, with Linda Donahue, section chief. Below: Gabi Fulton, office management specialist in the security section, inventories the consulate's keys to ensure proper access control.

China has been the traditional gateway to the rest of China for these products.

The consulate's public affairs section in the luxurious Garden Hotel takes an active role in promoting American values with its Weekly Forum lecture series, featuring members of the consulate community as speakers. The series gives junior officers speaking experience and a chance to promote American values abroad.

Junior officers are key members of the Guangzhou consulate staff. They rotate within the consular section, handling immigrant and nonimmigrant visas, adoptions, fraud protection and U.S. citizen services. These rotations expose them to the full range of consular duties. They also rotate for a one-month assignment to one of the other consulate sections. Junior officers also attend Chinese government ceremonies and trade promotion events. The Consulate's senior and mid-level

officers take mentoring seriously and share their experience and knowledge with junior officers.



PHOTOGRAPHS: (ABOVE): DAVID KORNHAUSER (BELOW): ROBERT MacCALLUM; (OPPOSITE PAGE LEFT): DEBORAH TURNER; (RIGHT): KEIKO KORNHAUSER



Above left: Jim Turner, economic officer, poses as a cautious bull in a china shop during a CLO-arranged tour of Foshan, Guangzhou's ceramic town. Right: The consular section seems to be pulling hard during the consulate's Moon Festival party tug-of-war. They are, from left, David Kornhauser, Aska Wu and Adedeji Okediji.

Life in Guangzhou cannot be fully appreciated without indulging in the city's most popular pastime: shopping. Guangzhou is so filled with family-run shops, specialty markets and mega-stores, it's hard to believe that a centrally planned economy ever existed here.

Guangzhou is also famous for its restaurants, an increasing number of which offer foreign cuisines such as German, Italian, Middle Eastern and dozens of Asian specialties. Many consider Cantonese cuisine, with its emphasis on fresh seafood, the epitome of Chinese cooking.

Another benefit of life in Guangzhou is the wealth of travel opportunities within China. Hong Kong, Macao and Southeast Asia are also close, and flights are affordable and increasingly comfortable.

Of course, there are still challenges in working and living in Guangzhou. Officers work with one of the world's

remaining Communist governments and face real difficulties when trying to promote American values and protect American interests. Arranging meetings with officials, especially on sensitive topics such as human rights and labor, can be difficult. Pollution, flu outbreaks and chaotic traffic are continuing problems. For spouses, life in Guangzhou can be especially challenging, since the language is difficult and opportunities are limited.

Despite these challenges, South China is on the cutting edge of economic growth in the People's Republic and in Asia. The U.S. Consulate General in Guangzhou will continue to be an exciting and interesting place to work, and Guangzhou will always be a fascinating place to live. ■

The author is a consular officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Guangzhou.

A photograph of three people standing on a paved walkway in front of the U.S. Capitol dome. On the left is a Black woman with short hair, wearing a black blazer over a white collared shirt and a patterned scarf. In the center is a white man with glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and striped tie. On the right is a white woman with short blonde hair, wearing a black blazer over a red top. They are all smiling at the camera. The background features the iconic white dome of the U.S. Capitol building, surrounded by green trees under a blue sky with some clouds. A metal railing is visible in the foreground.

State's Smiling Faces on the Hill

By Peter Gadzinski

PHOTOGRAPHS: CONGRESSIONAL LIAISON OFFICE



Above: Director Peter Gadzinski addresses Washington Tradecraft class. Below: Consular Officer Sandy Shipshock speaks to the 120th A-100 class.

Business is brisk at the Department's Capitol Hill legislative liaison office. In less than three years since opening in November 2001, just three staffers—a director, a congressional relations specialist and a consular officer—have serviced more than 17,000 queries.

The office serves as the Department's point of contact, troubleshooter and information portal for both House and Senate congressional staff. "The congress-

sional offices in Washington and in the districts benefit most from our services," observes Sandra Shipshock, a consular affairs representative assigned to the office. "We put them in touch with the right people here and overseas."

Compared with other agencies, the Department is a newcomer on the Hill. Defense, for example, set up its liaison offices in 1950. State received its 225-square-foot "beachhead" in the Rayburn House Office Building only after Secretary Powell approached House Speaker Dennis Hastert. The space, carved out from part of the Veterans Administration liaison office, is down the hall from the House military liaison offices—ideally located for State's almost daily coordination with the military, not to mention the Rayburn Deli. It also draws lots of walk-in business from a steady stream of passersby, according to Janette Brockenborough, a Civil Service congressional relations specialist.

Nearly half of the inquiries are consular issues, according to Ms. Shipshock. "Most of my day is spent responding to calls and e-mails from constituent services caseworkers who





The usual first stop is the country team briefing hosted by the ambassador but, the ride from the airport is one of the best opportunities to make a strong impression on congressional travelers, say the congressional staffers.



PHOTOGRAPHS: CONGRESSIONAL LIAISON OFFICE

work in the district offices back home. They're usually trying to chase down an answer for a constituent and often there's some deadline or urgent crisis brewing. I can usually answer the question directly. Other times, I'll contact the overseas post to get more details."

Many times her effort saves an overseas post a lot of work by not having to respond to a congressional letter. Inquiries about visa cases and procedures predominate, but there are also plenty of emergency passport and American citizen service cases as well.

About a third of the inquiries are from callers trying to navigate the Department's bureaucracy who just need direction to the right office in Washington or overseas. The liaison office also works with the Bureau of Legislative Affairs and foreign posts to support overseas congressional travel—ready to handle everything from logistics to meetings to publicity. These are the oversight and fact-finding delegations that bring lawmakers and congressional staffers face-to-face with issues affecting U.S. interests anywhere in the world. Congress pays for its own travel, not the Department. During 2003, there were 414 congressional trips—half of them to Europe and Eurasia.

Posts being visited have a valuable advantage because Department policy and positions can be presented directly to members of Congress and key staff. The usual first stop is the country team briefing hosted by the ambassador, but interestingly, the ride from the airport is one of the best opportunities to make a strong impression on congressional travelers, say the congressional staffers.

Secretary Powell visited the liaison office earlier this year and was impressed with the way it uses technology, such as consular databases, to assist members of Congress. "It's that kind of power that we're using to break through barriers, make the Department much more responsive and show that we are really serving



Opposite page top: House Judiciary Committee staffer Nolan Rappaport with liaison office's Janette Brockenborough. Opposite page bottom: Army liaison office director Col. Mike DeYoung with intern Nelly Nieblas. Above: Children visiting the liaison office.

the American people," he later told a congressional committee.

The liaison office also solicits congressional staff to speak at Foreign and Civil Service entry- and mid-level training sessions on how the Department works with Congress. The briefings outline the cultural differences between State and Congress and highlight how the executive and legislative branches work together.

The office also supports the Pearson Program Fellows, where Foreign Service Officers are detailed to the Hill for a year. It assists with selections, helps identify members and committees seeking State officers and promotes the program on its web site.

In August 2002, a survey of congressional staff found widespread respect for State's expertise but frustration in obtaining information. As a constant contact point for congressional staffers, the liaison office has lowered that frustration. "Feedback on the office from Congress has been positive," said Paul Kelly, assistant secretary for Legislative Affairs. "Members tell me they and their staff like what the office is doing and want us to continue." ■

The author directs the Department's congressional liaison office.



Anthony Interlandi discusses civilian control of the military.

Diplomat Champions Democratic Principles at Army Base

By Paul Koscak

Anthony Interlandi offers some lasting impressions for many of Latin America's future military and law enforcement leaders. When they complete his Armed Forces in a Democracy class they return home aware that democracy and human rights are crucial to a secure nation.

"During the 1980s, lots of Latin American dictatorships fell and were replaced by constitutional democra-

cies," Mr. Interlandi observed. "We stress how democracies last, how the political values of individual freedom protected by law have forged two-and-a-quarter centuries of uninterrupted constitutional democracy in the United States, and we show democracy in action."

A Foreign Service officer who served in Nicaragua, Chile, Venezuela and Brazil, Mr. Interlandi most recently helped establish diplomatic relations with East Timor, the world's newest nation. He now heads the democracy division of the Western Hemisphere Institute of

Security Cooperation in Ft. Benning, Ga. Teaching there, he said, is a direct opportunity to promote freedom in the Western Hemisphere.

Most of his students are military officers. The rest are police officers and a few are civilians working in defense ministries. But they're all from the Western Hemisphere, particularly Chile, Colombia and El Salvador. The institute champions democratic principles and human rights.

"I provide a firm grasp of early U.S. political history, the sanctity of constitutional rights and the legal foundation of firm civilian control over the U.S. Armed Forces," said Mr. Interlandi, who teaches the class in Spanish. "Most students are rapt with attention when I'm discussing John Locke's theory of natural rights or Thomas Jefferson's pardon of journalists convicted under the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798. They ask probing questions."

The institute is competitive. Students are recommended by their governments and screened by U.S. Embassies to ensure they meet the rigorous entrance requirements.

Because the institute allows him to design his courses, Mr. Interlandi links classroom academics to real-world experience through field trips to police stations and government offices. There, his students observe democratic government at work.

He developed briefing packages for the 21 sites identified for class visits, including a trip to the Martin Luther King Center in Atlanta. The folders include background information and recommended questions. There's a one-hour post-visit review to help students understand the structure, operation and objective of each government institution.

"Now, when students visit police headquarters in Columbus, Ga., I'm comfortable knowing they're more than just bedazzled when the 911 dispatcher sends multiple police, fire and rescue units to various places," he said. "Students now ask questions about the constitutionally mandated procedures police must follow in each arrest. They also show an awareness of our federal

system of government when they ask how Columbus police deal with a suspect fleeing to neighboring Phenix City, Ala."

At the King Center, Mr. Interlandi chronicles the American civil rights movement and reviews how the First Amendment guarantees the right to peaceful protest and free speech. Even with the backing of the Constitution, he explains, gaining voting rights, education and access to public transportation was a struggle for America's black citizens.



Donald Harrington, dean of academics, left, discusses the curriculum with Anthony Interlandi.

Mr. Interlandi's newest course explores how economic freedom and property rights influence prosperity in developing nations. Societies that value punctuality, attention to detail and saving money are likely to prosper, according to some social scientists.

"Take Korea," Mr. Interlandi said. "The north and south have the same culture, language and customs, but the big difference is Communism, which has no property rights or entrepreneurial freedom. As a result, one nation is on top and the other at the bottom of the barrel."

Societies that respect private property rights and attempt to empower the poor also prosper, he said, even among identical cultures. ■

Mr. Interlandi is now the deputy chief of mission in Georgetown, Guiana



Above: A colorfully garbed refugee receives grain rations at the Kounougo camp in eastern Chad. Below: The face of this child reflects the boredom of camp life.

Darfur Refugees in Chad Struggle to Survive

Story and Photos by Todd Stoltzfus

Having once lived in Africa, I thought I knew heat. I was wrong.

Stepping out of a small airplane onto the tarmac in eastern Chad, I was welcomed to this exceptionally remote and arid region by a blast of scorching air. It was the height of the dry season and the heat was comparable to what you feel when climbing into your car on one of those blistering hot August days in Washington—minus the humidity. This was the kind of heat that evaporates the sweat before it has a chance to stain your shirt.

It was May, and I had just arrived from the capital, N'Djamena, to review the conditions among Sudanese refugees in Chad for the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration. Nearly 200,000 refugees had escaped the horrors of war in Sudan's Darfur region and now struggled to survive in camps and settlements.

Extreme heat was just one of their problems.



Sudanese refugees had fled along a 600-kilometer section of the Sudan-Chad border into one of the most inhospitable and logistically difficult regions of Africa. Since December, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees had been transporting these refugees away from the volatile and nearly inaccessible border areas to newly established camps farther inside Chad. In the desert-like environment, water and firewood were scarce and supply lines were dangerously long for the large refugee population. The approaching rainy season would bring needed water, but in a deluge that could cut off some camps for months.

While media attention on Darfur has intensified only in the last few months, the humanitarian disaster, and the consequent refugee emergency in Chad, began more than a year ago when conflict erupted between rebels and the Sudanese government. Refugee flows into Chad grew significantly from August through December 2003 when Sudanese Arab Jingaweit militias were armed and sent against Sudanese "African" groups accused of harboring rebels.

Many refugees who fled to Chad were eager to speak of their experiences. Many had traveled for weeks to reach the border. Some described terrible attacks on their villages, the burning of their homes and the loss of their land. Many had been separated from parents or husbands. All came with only a few household items and little food.

By May, only a trickle of refugees was crossing the border. The Jingaweit had virtually locked down any movement inside Darfur. Most internally displaced persons could not move outside the perimeters of the makeshift camps for fear of being beaten, raped or killed. Most of the border areas were simply too dangerous to cross.

The few refugees who were still able to make it into Chad were those who had walked for several weeks northward, a circuitous route through areas still con-

trolled by Darfur rebel forces. I heard of refugees returning from Chad to Darfur to bring family and relatives out, often traveling at night along the dried-out wadis, or riverbeds, that extend north. Their stories evoked images of an African-style underground railroad.

While the conditions in the refugee camps were severe, they were far better than those in Darfur or along the volatile border. I was told that two refugee women had recently been shot while collecting water. A week before, the Jingaweit had attacked 30 kilometers into Chad. Most refugees were eager to move to the camps. Several thousand

refugees at the border, perhaps fearing they would be left behind, decided to walk to U.N. camps on their own.

The aid workers toiled tirelessly and showed it. Haggard, their lips chapped by the sun, many had left much more comfortable environs to provide urgent humanitarian aid. One human rights worker who was once an emergency room doctor was evacuated because of dysentery, dehydration and heat exhaustion. Their work was heroic given the extreme conditions, the daily hardships and the trauma of trying to repair the lives of a people trampled by war.

My job during my short stay in eastern Chad was to ensure that adequate assistance was reaching the refugees. I often described my job as part auditor, part investigative journalist and part consultant. My bureau had provided \$20.5 million in assistance to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Program and a number of other international and non-governmental organizations working in the region. The U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of Food for Peace had also contributed \$4.8 million in food. The assistance saved lives and brought comfort to people who have lost virtually everything.

It was money well worth spending. ■

The author is a former program officer for Africa in the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration.



The author, left, stands in front of the plane that brought him to this remote area of Chad. With him are the governor of Biltine Province, center, and the head of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees office.

HIV/AIDS

By Amy Black



HIV/AIDS is one of the greatest challenges facing the world today.

Someone is lost to this relentless disease every 10 seconds, that's nearly 8,000 people daily.

Meanwhile, an estimated 14,000 new infections occur daily.



Above: Ambassador Tobias, President Bush, Secretary Powell and Condoleezza Rice discuss the President's emergency plan for AIDS relief.

Consider these statistical estimates: 5 to 6 million people need lifesaving HIV drug treatment in low- and middle-income countries, yet only seven percent—or 400,000 people—had access to treatment at the end of 2003; comprehensive prevention programs could avert 29 million of the 45 million new infections projected by 2010, yet prevention programs reach fewer than one in five of the people who need them; and an estimated 15 million children under age 18 worldwide have lost one or both parents to AIDS—12 million of them in sub-Saharan Africa.

In the face of such dire figures, hope might seem scarce. However, the State Department is on the front lines of implementing President Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, an urgent initiative to turn the tide against this dreadful disease. Indeed, the concerted efforts of U.S. government employees to provide integrated HIV/AIDS treatment, prevention and care activities are bringing thousands of individuals back from the brink of death, keeping thousands more from infection and providing opportunities for children reeling from the loss of parents to the disease.

In his 2003 State of the Union address, President Bush proclaimed an unprecedented commitment of U.S. resources to fight HIV/AIDS. His Emergency Plan for

AIDS Relief commits \$15 billion over the next five years to fight the disease internationally. The United States is spending \$2.4 billion dollars this year to fight HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria abroad, a sum far beyond that committed by any other nation.

The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief assists more than 100 countries throughout the world. Among these countries are 15 that receive special emphasis and account for more than half of the world's infected population: Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guyana, Haiti, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam and Zambia. Approximately \$865 million has already been programmed for these countries in FY04. The plan's ambitious five-year goals for these 15 countries are supporting lifesaving antiretroviral drug treatment for 2 million people; averting infection of 7 million people; and supporting care for 10 million people affected and infected by HIV/AIDS, including orphans and vulnerable children.

President Bush believes that even with record levels of U.S. funding for international HIV/AIDS, "business as usual" approaches will not allow us to reach the treatment, prevention and care goals of the emergency plan. This initiative is about action. He insists that we stop

talking about why we can't stop AIDS, figure out what we can do and then do it—urgently.

President Bush appointed Ambassador Randall Tobias, a successful private sector leader, to be the first U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, based in the State Department. The coordinator reports directly to Secretary Powell and has the responsibility to oversee international HIV/AIDS programs of all U.S. agencies.

This integration of U.S. efforts, both in Washington and the field, allows the emergency plan to build on the expertise gained from more than two decades of U.S. government experience fighting HIV/AIDS. U.S. agencies have joined the fight in a powerful partnership that includes the Department of State; the U.S. Agency for International Development; the Departments of Defense, Commerce, Labor, and Health and Human Services; and the Peace Corps.

Ambassador Tobias' office in Washington includes personnel from these agencies who will manage the emergency plan budget, steer policy and offer technical support to the field. They will also measure the emergency plan's progress and change course if necessary, pursue diplomatic relationships around HIV/AIDS issues, engage the private sector and nongovernmental organizations, and consult with Congress. Although created only last year, the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator now has a diverse and energetic staff motivated to offer hope to those hit hardest by HIV/AIDS around the world.

Meanwhile, colleagues in U.S. missions, many of whom see firsthand the destruction caused by HIV/AIDS, have demonstrated a remarkable commitment to get the job done in spite of the daunting challenges. In each focus country, the U.S. ambassador leads an interagency emergency plan task force that oversees the initiative based on guidance from the coordinator's office. Like their colleagues in Washington, U.S. professionals in the field have come together to identify, fund,

launch and monitor programs to achieve emergency plan goals. All of this has been achieved under tight deadlines and in coordination with host governments and local partners in private and nongovernmental organizations. Because of the field's extensive preparatory work during the fall of 2003, funds began to flow to service providers soon after Congress made the appropriation on Jan. 21, 2004.

Though laying the emergency plan's foundation this year has demanded personal sacrifices from almost everyone involved, this global effort is already beginning



Ambassador Tobias and Dr. Julie Gerberding, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, learn about how emergency plan funds support health care workers who deliver antiretroviral drugs to HIV/AIDS patients in rural Uganda by motorbike.

to bear fruit. Seeing these results can make every lost weekend, shortened holiday and moment of frustration worth the sacrifice. Because of the efforts of committed U.S. government workers around the globe, numerous lives put at risk by HIV/AIDS will be saved this year, with the groundwork laid for millions more in the years to come.

The country essays that follow tell just a few of the stories of the difference the emergency plan is making around the world.

The author is the public affairs officer in the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator.



SOUTH AFRICA

"NOAH's Ark" Keeps Children Safe

By Nicola Wilkinson and
Daniel Stewart

The Maphophoma Ark is in the heart of the Kwa-Zulu Natal, a province of rolling green hills on the east coast of South Africa, where the HIV/AIDS pandemic has hit hardest. This "Ark" is part of an ambitious national program started by Nurturing Orphans of AIDS for Humanity. Much like the biblical ark, these NOAH's Arks are providing refuge in many communi-

live in a home they head themselves or one headed by an older sibling. After receiving a meal at the Maphophoma Ark, one small girl said, "The last time I ate chicken was in December 2003 when my uncle came to visit." HIV/AIDS took the lives of her parents; her siblings are dispersed throughout the province, cared for by five families.

The Maphophoma Ark is strongly supported by local leaders and the community, but there are few such facilities. Children receive peer counseling support, at least

one meal a day and the opportunity to learn computer skills, play sports or just relax in a secure and comfortable environment.

NOAH was conceived at the end of 2000 in response to the realization that South Africa will face an "epidemic" of orphans due to the AIDS pandemic. The program's role is to "franchise" a community-based model of orphan care. It has developed a 12-step program for individuals and community leaders interested in setting up an Ark. The model is designed to be cost-effective and sustainable.

To date, NOAH has registered 2,030 vulnerable children and trained 470 volunteers and 222 committee members. It has built 26 resource centers. In one such

center at Siyacatula, the center committee and teachers provide supplementary instruction to orphaned and vulnerable children. When it is up and running, math, biology and English will be offered to children after the regular school day. These children may not have parents to help out with school, but now they have others who care about their future with passion and dedication.

Nicola Wilkinson is the NOAH program manager and Daniel Stewart is the assistant information officer in Pretoria.



Children enjoy a nutritious meal at the Maphophoma Ark.

ties for the rising tide of AIDS orphans and other vulnerable children. In addition to safety, an Ark provides educational, health and nutritional programs. To support the development of Arks throughout South Africa, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief ("emergency plan" in all future references) has provided a three-year grant to NOAH.

The Maphophoma Ark provides services to over 150 vulnerable children. Most of the children who come to Arks such as this one are in foster care or being looked after by neighbors or church members. Frequently, they



ZAMBIA

Corridors of Hope Expand

By Joseph Kamanga and
Karen Doll Manda

HIV prevalence is especially high along major highways, in trading centers and in border, plantation and mining towns throughout southern Africa. In Zambia, while about 16 percent of all sexually active Zambian adult men and women aged 15 to 49 years are infected with HIV, the situation is even worse in border areas. Thousands of people cross the border or spend nights there. For example, truck drivers spend three days, on average, clearing customs. An economic sub-community has developed, leading to the emergence of a thriving sex trade at each border community. In Zambian border towns such as Livingstone, HIV infection rates have soared as high as 31 percent.

Responding to this escalating epidemic, in 1999, Corridors of Hope in southern Africa was begun by the USAID Regional HIV/AIDS Program in four border towns of South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia. The COH project in Zambia is a partnership project of World Vision Zambia, Society for Family Health and Zambia Health Education Communication Trust. In Zambia, COH was in seven sites by the end of 2003. With support from the emergency plan, three more sites were established in April 2004. Seven of the 10 sites are in major border towns.

The Corridors of Hope project targets sex workers and their clients with sexually transmitted infection prevention services and behavior change intervention. The project uses a method for delivering services known as the "Blue House," staffed by a manager, health care provider and behavior change coordinator. Well-trained outreach workers visit bars, nightclubs, hotels and other high-risk areas to encourage fewer partners and consistent use of condoms. The Blue House provides STI diagnosis and treatment services, behavior change counseling and condom distribution. For youth in the surrounding communities, the

project emphasizes abstinence, including delay of sexual debut. Most recently, a behavior change campaign targeted truckers. By the project's third year, STI services had reached more than 5,600 sex workers and 1,130 male clients.

The expansion of Corridors of Hope under the emergency plan began in April 2004 in Lusaka, Ndola and Chipata. These sites are targeting 1,600 sex workers. In addition, the project is expanding its services to include counseling and testing, with STI treatment for the first time.

Early results are encouraging. More than 400 female sex workers have been counseled for HIV testing, 102 have been tested, 540 female sex workers and 95 of their



Corridor of Hope health care providers meet with visitors.

clients have received STI services and 30,636 male and 480 female condoms have been distributed to sex workers and their clients.

Addressing the challenges of high-risk populations is essential to America's effort to turn the tide of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa.

Joseph Kamanga is a program officer and Karen Doll Manda is the country director for Family Health International/Zambia.



UGANDA

America Reaches Out to Bring Hope

By Mark M. Schlachter

The arrival of emergency plan funds in the spring of 2004 has dramatically increased lifesaving antiretroviral and prophylactic treatment programs for HIV-positive Ugandans.

As of August 2004, emergency plan-funded activities have helped more than 6,000 new clients begin ARV regimens. Through its partnership with the

based in Kampala's Mbuya parish. Reach Out has been operating in Mbuya parish for three years and serves the medical needs of nearly 1,000 people with home-based AIDS care, TB treatment, psychosocial and spiritual support, food assistance, and income-generating projects. The organization uses ARVs as part of its HIV/AIDS treatment and care program. The drugs already are benefiting more than 300 HIV-positive people, and as many as 200 new clients are expected to join

the ARV program by the end of the year.

One beneficiary of Reach Out's emergency plan support is Jimmy, a 42-year-old driver living in Mbuya parish with his wife and five children. Jimmy has been without work for the last four years due in part to the debilitating effects of HIV/AIDS. In February 2004, he came to Reach Out in poor condition, unable to walk. Jimmy, who has also been treated for tuberculosis by Reach Out physi-

cians, was among the first of the organization's clients to receive antiretroviral drugs. Just three weeks after starting the therapy, he was able to return to Reach Out under his own power for a follow-up examination. His spouse, also HIV-positive, has started treatment through Reach Out as well. This therapy holds the promise of returning patients like these to the productive lives they lost to HIV/AIDS.

The author is the public affairs officer at the U.S. Embassy in Kampala.



Reach Out volunteers register new clients.

Government of Uganda, local and international nongovernmental organizations and Ugandan civil society, the U.S. Mission in Kampala estimates that 25,000 HIV-positive Ugandans will benefit from ARVs by the end of 2004. The five-year emergency plan goals for Uganda will put 60,000 people on ARVs, avert 165,000 infections and reach 300,000 HIV-positive individuals—as well as orphans and vulnerable children—with care.

One of the many dynamic nongovernmental, faith-based initiatives implementing emergency plan programs is Reach Out, a health promotion organization



HAITI

Mobile Clinics Reach Pregnant Women in Remote Villages

By Juanita Folmsbee

A landmark Mobile Clinics project, funded by the emergency plan, is bringing desperately needed services to thousands of HIV-positive pregnant women in the most remote areas of Haiti. The Centers for Disease Control and the U.S. Agency for International Development help a Haitian organization known as MARCH run a network of rural mobile clinics that provide testing, counseling, medication, prenatal care, family planning services and food supplements to pregnant women. Monthly visits ensure careful follow-up for rural women at risk for AIDS. In the last year, the mobile clinic network has tested over 5,000 pregnant women at 26 sites and hopes to double that number over the next year.

The program focuses on improving the overall well-being of pregnant women, including those with HIV. MARCH hires accompagnateurs (Haitian assistants), who provide various services. For a small honorarium of \$35 a month, Marie, one of the assistants, makes daily visits to several HIV-positive women. She ensures that they take their medications and, once they have delivered their babies, provides them with formula. Marie brought a U.S. observer to the mobile clinic in Saut d'Eau, a remote town in the Central Plateau serviced by some of the worst roads in the country. The majority of clients travel two to three hours by donkey or on foot to get to the clinic. Thirty pregnant women were waiting to see the midwife. Fifty more patiently waited to receive wheat, lentils and oil.

While at the mobile clinic, the women receive information on HIV/AIDS from a nurse and 99 percent agree to be tested for HIV, anemia and syphilis. All these services are completed in a single day so the women can return to their homes.

Rose, one of the patients, was there with her four-month-old daughter. Rose was diagnosed HIV-positive at one of MARCH's mobile clinics during her pregnancy and was put on antiretroviral therapy. Her infant was treated after birth. Rose's baby will soon have her last

test to confirm that the HIV virus did not pass from mother to infant. MARCH will continue to monitor Rose's health.

Another woman, Rosiline, had an active one-year-old boy on her lap. Rosiline had come to one of MARCH's mobile clinics while still pregnant, tested positive for HIV and was put on therapy. Rosiline's son is HIV-negative and Rosiline is getting ARV therapy. With Marie's help, she has good prospects for continued good health.

These successes are part of a broader effort under the emergency plan to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Globally, this initiative has already trained 14,700 health workers and improved

more than 900 health care sites in severely affected countries. During the program's first 18 months, some 378,000 women have been served, including 34,000 women who have received ARV preventive therapy. An estimated 4,800 children who would have been born with HIV were born HIV-free as a result of the President's plan.



Pregnant women wait to receive services at a mobile clinic.

The author is the deputy director for the office of the Centers for Disease Control in Port-au-Prince.



America Brings Lifesaving Medicine to a Remote Province

By Mary Kamb and Luong Thi San

Nestled high in the northern mountains bordering China, Vietnam's Cao Bang province recalls simpler times. The seven-hour trip from Hanoi to Cao Bang is a winding, often breathtakingly beautiful drive through tree-covered karsts, hidden valleys of silt-laden streams and stilt houses beside terraced rice paddies. Populated almost exclusively by ethnic minority peoples such as the Tay and Nung, Cao Bang represents a quieter, rural way of life. But its remote location has not protected it

al population. Vietnam must act quickly to avert a generalized HIV epidemic.

This situation, along with strong government commitment, led to the selection of Vietnam as the 15th focus country in the President's emergency plan and the first focus country in Asia. The U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, Ambassador Randall Tobias, visited the country in early July 2004. He met with Vietnam's Deputy Prime Minister and visited several health care sites in the capital area. Increased funds under the emergency plan have already begun to arrive.

Cao Bang is one of 33 provinces to begin HIV prevention and care through a partnership with the Vietnam Ministry of Health and the U.S. government's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The province now has voluntary counseling and testing, community outreach using peer educators and HIV outpatient clinic services.

Emergency plan funds will allow provinces like Cao Bang to increase their services, enlist the aid of new community partners and begin lifesaving antiretroviral therapies. Dr. Hoang Ba Thuoc, vice director of the provincial health services, notes that the voluntary counseling and testing center, opened just last year, has already helped almost 1,000 clients learn their HIV status and take steps to avoid transmitting the virus to others without fear of the stigma that still plagues AIDS sufferers here. But what is most needed, according to Dr. Thuoc, is medicine to treat the increasing number of people growing sick with HIV.

In August, Ambassador Raymond Burghardt visited Cao Bang and met with Dr. Thuoc and other provincial leaders. The Ambassador visited the counseling and testing center and noted that emergency plan funds will support HIV outpatient care at the provincial hospital and allow health care providers to obtain training to begin ARV and prophylactic treatment programs.

Mary Kamb directs the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Vietnam. Luong Thi San is technical assistant in the CDC Office in Vietnam.



Ambassador Raymond Burghardt watches voluntary counseling and testing center staff at work in Cao Bang.

from the epidemic of HIV that is rapidly spreading throughout the country, particularly the northern provinces. An epidemic of heroin use among 15- to 29-year-olds has left Cao Bang with one of the highest per capita HIV prevalence rates in the nation.

Sadly, Cao Bang's situation is not unique in Vietnam. With approximately 82 million people, the vast majority 30 years old or younger, the country's HIV infections have doubled in just 4 years, to 215,000. The outbreak is already spreading from higher-risk groups to the gener-



U.S. Lends a Hand at a Critical Stage

By Kristen Kelleher

Only South Africa has more HIV-infected residents than the estimated 5.1 million Indians living with the disease. The threat of a generalized epidemic is serious. But adequate resources and capacity to contain the epidemic can help protect India's future.

HIV infections are concentrated in "hot spots": the states of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, and a few areas of the Northeast along trade routes for illegal drugs. Truckers, port workers, intravenous drug users, homosexual men and commercial sex workers and their clients are at highest risk. Prevalence rates of more than 1 percent in pregnant women (a proxy for tracking HIV) show that the virus has begun to spread to the general population. India's size and the mobility of its people warrant concern about broader transmission.

Complicating factors intensify the public health challenge. Awareness of HIV/AIDS is very low. Fewer than half the women in India have even heard of AIDS. About 90 percent of Indians living with the virus do not know they are infected. Open discussion of sexuality and risk of infection is uncommon. Indian society and its leaders have put the issue on the map, but investment in public education, care and treatment remain inadequate.

U.S. assistance works to stem the spread of the disease, ease the suffering of victims and widen knowledge about diagnosis, care and treatment. U.S. HIV/AIDS support for India in 2004 is over \$20 million—more than for some of the focus nations of the President's emergency plan.

U.S. intervention involves a team of U.S. Mission partners—agencies that specialize in development, scientific research, public health, defense and anti-trafficking in persons efforts. For example, American-funded mass communication campaigns raise awareness about HIV/AIDS. The program funds counseling, voluntary testing and care. Prevention efforts are yield-

ing promising results. HIV infection rates appear to be stabilizing among some groups in Tamil Nadu.

U.S. government personnel guide the Indian pharmaceutical industry in reviewing HIV therapies and train medical teams to oversee antiretroviral drug therapy. U.S. officials consult with state and national governments and the donor community to help India



Celine, holding a young child, seeks to lessen the stigma of HIV by speaking openly about her own positive status.

strengthen its response to the epidemic. Indo-U.S. military cooperation creates opportunities to share information on prevention and treatment. U.S. efforts to combat trafficking in persons also help fight AIDS. Trafficking victims who contract the disease are given medical care and counseling.

India's HIV/AIDS epidemic is likely to get worse before it gets better. But the United States is helping to lay the foundation for an effective nationwide response—one that will help free the people of India from the shadow of this devastating killer. ■

The author is the USAID India program development and communications director.

picture perfect

ROMANIA'S HIV-POSITIVE TEENS DOCUMENT THEIR PLIGHT **BY KARA McDONALD**

HIV-positive teens in Romania are using cameras to document their deadly virus and call attention to a taboo subject in that nation's changing society.

Since the late 1980s, Romania has had more children infected with HIV/AIDS than any other country in Europe. It started years ago when young children and babies were given blood transfusions as a health supplement when food and vitamins were scarce during former dictator Nicolae Ceaucescu's administration. Tragically, much of the blood supply was HIV-infected. Those youngsters are now teenagers and young adults who are often denied social services and shunned in classrooms because of their disease. Not only do they face discrimination in their neighborhoods and schools, but many are doomed to poverty during their abbreviated lives.

Now, Photovoice Romania, a project funded by the Kirby Simon Foreign Service Trust and the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest's public diplomacy section, is giving these stricken youth a voice and putting a face on a national epidemic.

In January 2002, a Peace Corps volunteer, two photographers and I joined with a group of families with HIV-positive teens to explore ways to deal with this discrimination. "The local community's response to HIV/AIDS is to ignore it," said our group's director. "We feel like we have no allies and no voice to express our needs. Giving the kids a way to tell their story would be a dream."

In April, that dream came true. Photographs and commentary of 17 HIV-positive teens from Giurgiu,

This surreal scene reminds the photographer of those who want to give up on life after becoming infected.



Romania, filled the walls of a gallery in downtown Bucharest. After learning some basic camera skills, the teens photographed their activities and surroundings. They then wrote about their photos, why they took

them and what changes could be made to the pictures. The result was a series of images and commentaries about their complex lives. But the collection also shows kids with dreams and a hearty sense of humor.

"I want to tell people that I am a man like any other and that you don't have to be afraid of me

just because I have AIDS," said Alexander, one of the exhibitors. "I'm not responsible for my infection and HIV isn't contracted through friendship."

Carla, another teen, wrote: "This is the most important picture, because it's my picture. And when I die, they're going to look at it and remember me. If you know that you have this disease, there is a time when you die. And this is why I would like to tell children that they shouldn't have too many illusions about the future because none of them knows how many hours they still have to live."

Creating a culture of tolerance is a crucial first step to an open discussion of the social and economic consequences of HIV, such as poverty, insecurity, unemployment and inconsistent health care. The exhibition is educating local officials, health experts and politicians as well as shaping Romania's future.

In addition to Romania, the exhibit will be shown in Washington, D.C., and Georgetown, Kentucky. It was shown last winter in Buffalo, N.Y. ■

The author is the Czech Republic desk officer and served in Bucharest from 2001 to 2003.



Carla said she took this self-portrait to be remembered after she dies.



From left, Grant Green, under secretary for Management; Sen. Ernest Hollings; Jim Millette, center director; and Christopher Burnham, the Department's chief financial officer, mark the official completion of the Charleston Financial Center with a requisite ribbon cutting.

Charleston Financial Center Celebrates New Facility

Story and Photos by Paul Koscak

Nearly 100 community leaders, politicians and senior officials from the State Department and other agencies cheered a new workplace that marks a decade of consolidating the Department's financial operations.

Sen. Ernest Hollings, a former South Carolina governor, along with Under Secretary Grant Green and Chief Financial Officer Christopher Burnham, were among those celebrating the official opening of the sparkling 93,000-

square-foot complex at the former Charleston Naval Base. The facility is part of the Department's three-building, lushly landscaped campus that also includes a passport agency.

"This was on budget and a week early," Mr. Burnham said. "There are 550 high-quality, good-paying jobs here. With the passport center there are more than 800 employees."

Representatives from Resource Management and Administration, Naval Facilities Engineering Southern Division, Hightower Construction and subcontractors, as well as employees attended the June 28 opening.

The \$15 million brick-and-glass building has a 250-seat auditorium, cafeteria, fitness center and teleconference/multimedia room. A building that occupied part of the site was demolished to make room for the new facility, which was constructed in 15 months. Every office and modular work area has OpenNet, Internet and Development Network computer connections. An amazing 100 miles of cable is strung throughout the building.

Growing from about 80 employees in the late 1990s, the center now employs about 300 staff and contractors. That number will double when the Department finishes consolidating its financial operations by the end of this year. Then all of the Department's worldwide financial services will be managed from Charleston.

"This brought many high-quality jobs to Charleston at a time when the Navy had closed both the naval base and shipyard," said Jim Millette, the center's director and deputy assistant secretary for global financial services.

The center was relocated to Charleston in 1995 when the Department closed its financial center in Mexico

City. Mexico City serviced embassies in Latin America and the Caribbean. During the past year and a half Charleston also took over financial services for Europe, Africa and the Middle East. The center processes payroll, claims, receivables, reports and reconciliations and performs domestic accounting.

Already the center has installed a new overseas accounting and disbursing system and replaced a decades-old multiple-center financial data system with a real-time single database to eventually service all overseas posts. An independent accounting firm gave



From left, Sen. Ernest Hollings holds a framed drawing of the Charleston Financial Center with center director Jim Millette.

the center's 2003 financial statement high marks, and it has received the Association of Government Accountants' Certificate of Excellence award for the past three years.

Mr. Millette, who's been involved with the center's planning since 1995, credited Sen. Hollings for securing the funds to construct the building and praised his staff. "We're fortunate to have such a wide spectrum of talent." ■

The author is the acting editor of State Magazine.

U.S., Canadian and technology center staff poses for this photo at 20 degrees below zero.



Nudging Former Adversaries Toward Peace

By Edward H. Vazquez

Working in the Office of Proliferation Threat Reduction in the Non-Proliferation Bureau can sometimes induce vertigo. One recent day had me considering the safety of two staff members working on scientist programs in Iraq, the security of certain nuclear sites in Russia and what the U.S. might do about them, and a request to remove dangerous pathogens from a Central Asian post. All this while writing my remarks for a conference in Moscow later that week.

While the geographic and policy scope of the office is wide, our goal can be simply stated: to move scientific expertise away from building dreadful weapons and toward research, development and production of scientific products that enhance peace in countries that were once hostile to America and devoted a huge percentage of their resources to weapons.

The United States has made a substantial effort to take some of the most dangerous weapons ever created out of circulation. The Nunn-Lugar cooperative threat reduction programs are testimony to the bipartisan spirit that recognized both a danger and a historic opportunity in the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1992. We saw our principal adversary suddenly lose power, but leave in place the same awesome weapons they trained on us—without the tight controls the Soviets maintained.

Even as the Armageddon clock was being set back a few minutes, the smaller stopwatches counting down to lesser catastrophes were ticking ever faster as the scale of the Russia's weapons problem became clearer. Spurred and funded by Nunn-Lugar, the U.S. government set up programs now managed by the Departments of State, Energy and Defense to deal with this new threat in three basic ways. Roughly speaking, the Defense Department

decommissions, destroys or otherwise renders harmless complex weapons and their delivery systems; Energy helps secure sensitive facilities and/or removes fissile materials from insecure locations; and State works to redirect scientific and technical personnel toward civilian goals. In addition to managing redirection efforts in the former U.S.S.R., my office also manages such efforts in Iraq and Libya.

We are divided into three teams: nuclear, bio/chemical and science centers redirection. While the heart of the operation is the two science centers in Moscow and Ukraine, a burgeoning program in Iraq and the opportunity presented by Libya's decision to renounce its nuclear and chemical weapons have expanded the geographic scope of our work. Add to that our role in using the G8 Global Partnership effort and staffing the G8 Senior Group for Under Secretary John Bolton, and you have an office of 26 people working in diverse ways for common objectives.

The science centers team manages the redirection for Russia and the successor states of the U.S.S.R. The two centers—the International Science and the Technology Center in Moscow, and Science and Technology Center Ukraine in Kiev—are international organizations that award grants to former weapons institutes to help them move toward commercial development or basic research that can attract support beyond the U.S. government. The U.S. provides about 70 percent of the \$120 million annual budget for the two centers.

The age of terrorism has raised the profile of biological and chemical weapons. The dual-use nature of biological and chemical sciences poses a particular challenge since it makes these weapons easier and cheaper to acquire and use than nuclear weapons. Unfortunately, the U.S.S.R. built an enormous infrastructure of scientific establishments dedicated to developing and producing such weapons. The knowledge held by the small army of Soviet-era researchers in these two fields would provide a terrorist organization or hostile state with the means for launching a campaign of mass murder that could dwarf 9/11.

Fortunately, the explosion of the biotechnology industry provides these scientists with marketable skills if they can learn how to sell them at home or abroad in what is an increasingly globalized area of research. Our bio-chem redirect team works to move institutes and scientists to sustainable, transparent and peaceful pur-

suits. Our team also supports the U.S. effort to counter biological and chemical terrorism.

On the nuclear side, we work with Defense and Energy to ensure policy consistency and to provide diplomatic support for U.S. government policy both bilaterally and in multilateral organizations. The G8 Global Partnership, managed by the Department's under secretary for Arms Control and International Security Policy and staffed by our office, works to increase resources and coordinate projects in cooperative threat reduction.

This office combines policy and program management as few offices do, and the staff reflects this dual



U.S., Canadian and technology center staff tour the Stepnogorsk facility.

mission. We have a sprinkling of FSOs (I'm one of them), a number of senior civil servants with decades of experience in nonproliferation and related disciplines, and four scientists who provide the crucial knowledge that allows us to engage our colleagues.

Since starting this job in February, I have found myself presiding over Global Partnership Working Group meetings in Paris, being briefed at one of the premier nuclear physics institutes in Moscow, lobbying a northern European government on science center issues and being educated by our brilliant scientists and experienced GS staff on the intricacies of threat reduction work. I get a tangible feeling of contributing to important work that is in the news every day. ■

The author directs the Office of Proliferation Threat Reduction.



State Gets a Visitor Center and American Diplomacy Museum

Is it possible to create a popular American diplomacy visitor center and museum?

That's just what Ralph Appelbaum, designer of the Holocaust Museum, the Newseum and the Constitution Center is doing. He's working with the U.S. Diplomacy Center in the Bureau of Public Affairs, the Office of Special Projects in the Bureau of Administration and the architecture firm of Karn, Chapman, Charuhas and Twohey to complete such a place by 2007 in the George C. Marshall Wing of the Harry S Truman Building.

Inspiring spaces and fascinating artifacts will combine with theater presentations, interactive stations and an appealing museum shop to bring the concept to life. Trained docents from the diplomatic community will put a human face on the stories of diplomacy.

Supported by Secretary Powell and all the living former Secretaries, the Department of State Visitor Center and National Museum of American Diplomacy will invite visitors to explore the history, practice and challenges of American diplomacy. It will convey the message that diplomacy, which seems so abstract and remote to many, affects every person every day.

Expanding on the theme "America Engaged," multimedia displays in the central atrium will describe the Department's work, the activities of the Secretary of State, press briefings and diplomatic responses to breaking global events. A group of continuously renewable interactive stations called the "Challenges of Diplomacy" will help visitors explore the greatest glob-

al challenges facing the world today and register their opinions on important issues.

A large interactive map will highlight the more than 250 embassies, consulates and missions staffed by American diplomats in over 180 countries. The map will not only show the geographic settings where our diplomats operate, it will show them in action: negotiating with foreign governments, issuing visas, delivering foreign assistance, conducting international exchanges and helping Americans abroad.

One exhibit will display examples of early diplomacy. Artifacts such as an ancient cuneiform tablet and American Indian peace pipe will illustrate how diplomacy has remained constant throughout history, while images will depict envoys, embassies and missions from bygone years.

Video narratives from diplomats in the field and employees on domestic assignment will show how the Department's work affects our daily lives.

In the theater, visitors will witness a dramatic presentation called "In Our Nation's Service—The History of American Diplomacy," which will trace diplomacy's influence on our nation. Students will be able to participate in classes, discussions, negotiations and debates in two classrooms flanking the theater.

Housed in a glass case with special access for staff, the Great Seal display will help visitors learn about the seal's role in history and show Department staff imprinting documents.

BY MICHAEL BOORSTEIN AND PRISCILLA LINN

A three-dimensional, interactive time line of American diplomatic history will run along the museum walls. Images, artifacts and interactive stations will explain how diplomacy has shaped our nation and breathe life into key diplomatic events in U.S. history.

Interactive-situation tables in this gallery will encourage visitors to understand how diplomats seek solutions face-to-face and nation-to-nation and ponder such issues as global trade, the environment, terrorism and international development.

At a touch-screen map of the United States, visitors will discover how diplomacy even works at home by linking local and international economies, guiding Sister City and student exchange programs and sending diplomats to promote the State Department in their hometowns. A solemn display will honor diplomats who died serving our nation.

Oral histories and personal recollections in a glass-walled gallery will commemorate the lives of diplomats and their families overseas. Families can contribute memorabilia kept in a wall of transparent safe deposit boxes. Interactive stations will feature "A Day in the Life of a Diplomat Abroad."

Visitors will even participate in some diplomatic activities: negotiating, issuing passports and visas, helping Americans, working on foreign assistance, administering exchange programs and informing overseas audiences about the United States. They will also learn about the training diplomats receive before going overseas.

A temporary exhibition area will showcase special subjects, places, people and events. Nearby, a glass-

walled gift shop will sell memorabilia and educational materials.

The visitor center and museum will host programs in the adjacent Department of State Auditorium and Conference Center. They will tie visitor center and museum exhibits to historical and current issues. An active outreach program will engage schools and jointly sponsor lectures, seminars, films and cultural events with the diplomatic community and other museums.

The Department has pledged space, staff and security for the project. Working with the Department, the non-profit Foreign Affairs Museum Council aims to raise \$25 million in private donations to construct the displays, media and internal structures. All living former Secretaries are honorary directors of the council.

The visitor center and museum will be a place where the American diplomatic community can tell their stories and encourage others to join their ranks. As plans evolve, opportunities will arise for people to donate time as docents or volunteers, make financial contributions, offer loans or donate diplomatic artifacts.

For further information or to donate artifacts, contact the United States Diplomacy Center at (202) 736-9040 or USDC@state.gov. To make a financial contribution, contact the Foreign Affairs Museum Council at (202) 362-0759 or FAMC@purespeed.com. ■

Michael Boorstein is the director of the United States Diplomacy Center in the Bureau of Public Affairs.

Priscilla Linn, curator of the center and museum, works in the United States Diplomacy Center.



Retired Ambassador Stephen Low, right, and Michael Boorstein study museum plans.

Ambassador with a Vision

For more than 30 years, former Ambassador Stephen Low has envisioned a museum of diplomatic history. In the mid-1990s, he commented to his friend former Senator Charles "Mac" Matthias that people in the diplomatic community had no place to tell their stories or let the public know about their work.

"Let's do something about it," said Sen. Matthias.

In 1996, a museum of diplomatic history began to take root. Secretary Warren Christopher was open to Ambassador Low's idea of a museum in the Department's exhibit hall, as was Secretary Madeleine Albright, but the space had multiple uses and wasn't open to the public. To solve those problems, Secretary Albright committed 20,000 square feet on the first floor of the George C. Marshall Wing.

Ambassador Low founded the Foreign Affairs Museum Council to help raise the funds. He continues to dedicate hours each week to the project, realizing his vision of a place where the public can learn about the history, practice and challenges of American diplomacy.



Foreman Guntis Muceniks, left, and electrician Imants Sics fit three-prong lamps with two-prong electric plugs.

New Lamps Not So Shocking

By Leslie H. Holland

Living overseas presents plenty of hazards, so it's always good news when life gets a little safer.

A recent effort to replace the standard 110-volt lamp with a lamp designed for 220-volt environments will improve residential safety for posts overseas, most of which are in countries using 220-volt systems. The new lamp has the same look and features, but the upgraded components have eliminated potential electrical shock hazards.

The U.S. Embassy in Riga first cited the potential electric shock posed by reversed polarity when 110-volt lamp plugs were retrofitted with two-prong European-style plugs. Accidental contact with a metal lamp holder or bulb threads extending above the holder can be hazardous, even when the lamp is turned off. If there is simultaneous contact with a grounded appliance, current could be redirected through the person.

The 110-volt lamps previously supplied were UL-approved and no injuries have been reported, despite the potential hazard.

The new 220-volt lamps, manufactured by Trinity Lighting in Jonesboro, Ark., are also UL-approved and are now available for posts to purchase. They're only about eight dollars more per lamp. The 110-volt lamps will no longer be supplied under the residential furniture contract, but posts may continue to retrofit and use their current supply of 110-volt lamps.

The new design will keep posts from having to retrofit, although plugs may still have to be adapted to local receptacles, which vary worldwide.

Technical questions should be directed to Overseas Buildings Operations, Safety, Health and Environmental Management Division. ■

The author is an industrial hygienist in the Safety, Health and Environmental Management Division of Overseas Building Operations.

A MUSICAL POTPOURRI

By John Bentel

The Foreign Affairs Recreation Association and the State of the Arts Cultural Series presented several musical groups as well as classical piano and vocal performances during recent lunchtime shows.

Sujin Hong kicked off the series with an awe-inspiring piano recital by six different composers from the romantic (Chopin) to the contemporary (Kennan). Her controlled velocity was beautifully tempered by exquisite phrasing, insightful maturity and great musicality. Sujin is a remarkable pianist at such a young age with a promising career.

Billing themselves as the "world's most versatile three-man band," WIRED rocked the house. Their repertoire includes an impressive range of eras and styles, including 50s and 60s pop and rock, R&B, blues, reggae, country, funk and classic rock. This talented trio consists of Brian Martin (bass), "Big Ed" Reedy (drums) and Mike Kelly (guitar). Their energy was as contagious as the audience's applause.

Pallavi Mahidhari, who is all of 16 years old, is a pianist with an incandescent future. For one so young, Pallavi displayed an abundance of poetry, clarity, lyricism and brilliance in a wonderful program of Mozart and Chopin. Pallavi's Chopin was so brilliantly played you hated for it to end. Pallavi Mahidhari is a gifted artist. Watch for him in the years to come.

A truly unique sound was heard from Bedlam, a group specializing in music played in taverns and homes of colonial America. Dressed in period costumes were Regina and Chris Loffredo (vocals, guitars, percussion and recorder), Julia Jackson (vocals and guitar), Beverly Russell (hammer dulcimer), Jeannine Dorothy (guitar and percussion) and John Tarafas (recorder). Their lighthearted performance was also very enlightening as they briefed us on their musical selection's history. The Bedlam performers took that name from a song about the infamous London insane asylum, claiming "it seemed to match our personalities."

Phillip Watson, an 18-year-old lyric baritone, presented an outstanding vocal performance of classical, Broadway and spiritual selections. Phillip is a recent graduate of Suitland High School, where he studied under the tutelage of Samantha McElhaney and Kevin Thompson. His mother, Deborah Watson, is a Department employee in the executive secretariat's



Members of the band WIRED surround Caryl Traten Fisher, director of the State of the Arts program, after their noontime performance in the Dean Acheson Auditorium.

information resource management section. Phillip wowed the ladies in the audience and earned a standing ovation with his rendering of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "If I Loved You." Phillip is indeed a talent to watch. ■

The author is a computer specialist in the Executive Secretariat.

CALENDAR

Oct. 13	Andrew Zatman, pianist/ composer, "Patriotic Music"
Oct. 27	Asaph Ballet, with Tavani Ensemble Musicians
Nov. 3	Jean-Francois Bescond, clarinet, Samuel V. Brock, piano
Dec. 1	Ivo Kaltchev, Bulgarian interna- tional concert pianist
Dec. 15	Christmas Program

All performances are on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. in the Dean Acheson Auditorium.

Johnny Loves Cars

10W-30 OIL FLOWS IN HIS VEINS **BY LILLIAN SAMET**



After spending almost 400 hours remodeling a car, Johnny sells it to finance his enterprise. Here he is with his 1964 Capri.

Johnny Jønborg, the motorpool dispatcher at the U.S. Embassy in Copenhagen, bought his first car before he was old enough to have a driver's license. He reckons he'll never grow too old to play with cars.

His fascination with remodeling cars was ignited during the 1973 energy crisis, when manufacturers began building efficient cars that Johnny considered stylistically boring. He took it upon himself to spark some life into those uninspired designs. Since then, he has redesigned, remodeled and reconstructed dozens of Fords from across Europe. A member of the 100-member Danish Ford Capri Club, he purchased his latest "project" from more than 600 miles away, in Sweden.

Whenever time allows, Johnny works on his cars, scattered in barns across Denmark. Armed with his mouse and computer, he first creates his designs digitally and in 3-D. In fact, digital design has become his second hobby. A drawing of Denmark's mascot, the "Danish Dynamite," is on its way to being published.

Johnny's current project is a 1971 British Ford Capri—a British version of a Mustang. He actually

began planning for the car in 1979. After falling in love with Mel Gibson's "Interceptor" in the movie *Mad Max* and seeing the film 20 times, Johnny was determined to have that car one day. When importing a 1975 Australian Falcon proved unfeasible, Johnny decided to re-create it in Denmark. Using the "Interceptor" as a model, Johnny is redesigning a 1971 Capri. His neighbor, a retired aircraft engineer, helps him build spare parts.

He replaced the 4-cylinder engine with a V-8 and installed an automatic transmission. The brakes are now power-assisted and operate on a dual system. With the mechanics finished, Johnny is now working on the body. He plans to put on a blower and modify the front end of the car so it has the same width and depth as the

"Interceptor." He will make a roof spoiler out of fiberglass, a skill he taught himself. The car still looks classic and boasts a 1960s look, but now it has the added bonus of modern technology and up-to-date safety features.

Unfortunately, the temperature must be warmer than 64 degrees Fahrenheit to work with fiberglass. So Johnny is building a heated garage on his property to store and work on cars even in the winter. When the garage is finished, his very patient wife will regain access to her garage, now home to his tools and the future "Interceptor."

But Johnny's hobby is not just about fixing what's broken. His work is an art form, a means of expression. "In the '50s and '60s, each car had a soul," says Johnny. The challenge is to express that creativity while maintaining the car's distinguishing traits. A hobby he has enjoyed since he was 17 is in no risk of growing repetitive. ■

Lillian Samet spent the summer as a public affairs intern at the embassy in Copenhagen and has returned to her studies at Princeton.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

WHAT'S NEW?

Student Records Online. Need to know your class schedule or want an unofficial transcript of training taken through FSI? Visit the FSI Registrar's Office web page on the Department of State OpenNet at <http://www.fsi.state.gov/admin/reg>.

The Department's Mandatory Leadership and Management Training Requirements

The Secretary has mandated leadership training from mid-through senior-grade levels for Foreign Service and Civil Service employees to ensure that they are prepared for increasing levels of responsibility. FSI's Leadership and Management School offers the required courses to meet these mandatory training requirements and other courses.

Mandatory Courses

FS 3/GS 13: PK245 Basic Leadership Skills

FS 2/GS 14: PT207 Intermediate Leadership Skills

FS 1/GS 15: PT210 Advanced Leadership Skills

Newly promoted FS-OC/SES:

PT133 Senior Executive Threshold Seminar

PT107 EEO Diversity Awareness for Managers and Supervisors

Some Non-Mandatory Recommendations for All FS and GS employees:

PK246 Employee Relations Seminar

PT121 Managing People Problems

PT129 Teambuilding

PT214 Managing Conflict Productively

PT251 Productively Managing Stress

PT252 Managing Up

Senior Policy Seminars:

FSI's Leadership and Management School offers the following professional development and policy seminars for senior-level executives of the Department and the foreign affairs/national security community:

PT301 Appearing Effective in the Media

PT302 Testifying before Congress

PT303 Crisis Leadership

PT305 Executive as Coach and Mentor

PT300 Leader as Facilitator

PT304 Deputy Assistant Secretary as Leader

For more information, contact FSI's Leadership and Management School at (703) 302-6743, FSILMS@state.gov or on the web at <http://fsiweb.fsi.state.gov/fsi/lms/>.

School of Language Studies

Increased language enrollments from the Diplomatic Readiness Initiative have required FSI's School of Language Studies to change class schedules. Classes are being run in double sessions. The morning session may begin as early as 7:30 a.m. and the afternoon session may end as late as 5:30 p.m.

Dates for FSI Transition Center courses are shown below. For information on all the courses available at FSI, visit the FSI Schedule of Courses on the Department of State's OpenNet at <http://fsi.state.gov>. FY04/05 dates are now available in the online catalog. See Department Notices for announcements of new courses and new course dates and periodic announcements of external training opportunities sponsored by FSI.

Security	NOV	DEC	Length
MQ911 SOS: Security Overseas Seminar	1,22	6,20	2 D
MQ912 ASOS: Advanced Security Overseas Seminar	30	14	1 D

Foreign Service Life Skills	NOV	DEC	Length
MQ104 Regulations, Allowances and Finances		1	3 D
MQ107 English Teaching Seminar	29		1 D
MQ116 Protocol and U.S. Representation Abroad	20		1 D
MQ704 Targeting the Job Market	9		1 D
MQ803 Realities in Foreign Service Life	6		1 D

Career Transition Center	NOV	DEC	Length
RV101 Retirement Planning Seminar	30		4 D
RV103 Financial Management and Estate Planning		2	1 D
RV104 Annuities and Benefits and Social Security		1	1 D

Length: H = Hours, D = Days, W = Weeks

FasTrac Distance Learning Program: Learn at Your Own Pace, When and Where You Want!

All State Department employees, LEs and EFM's are eligible. FasTrac offers more than 3,000 courses covering numerous topics. Training is conducted online through the Internet and the Department's OpenNet. Students may complete courses to include on their official FSI transcript or take a course module they need to "get the job done." Course lengths vary from two to eight hours and knowledge preassessments may shorten learning plans. To view the complete FasTrac catalog, visit the FasTrac web site at <http://fsi.state.gov/fastrac>. For additional information, please contact the Distance Learning Coordinator at the Office of the Registrar, (703) 302-7497.

APPOINTMENTS



U.S. Ambassador to Sweden. M. Teel Bivins of Texas, a former member of the Texas State Senate from 1989 to 2004 and chairman of the finance committee, is the new U.S. Ambassador to Sweden.

From 1974 to the present he has been self-employed in cattle and oil and gas businesses in Amarillo, Texas. He continues his family's four-generation involvement in ranching and is also active in oil and gas exploration. Mr. Bivins is married and has four children.



U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand. Ralph L. "Skip" Boyce of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, is the new U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand. Before this assignment, he was U.S. Ambassador to

the Republic of Indonesia from 2001 to 2004. Mr. Boyce was deputy assistant secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs from 1998 to 2001, responsible for Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. He was deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok from 1994 to 1998 and in Singapore from 1992 to 1994. He headed the political section at the embassy in Bangkok from 1988 to 1992. Mr. Boyce has also served in Tehran, Tunis and Islamabad.



U.S. Ambassador to the Bolivian Republic of Venezuela. William R. Brownfield of Texas, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, is the new U.S. Ambassador to the Bolivian Republic of Venezuela. He was U.S. Ambassador to Chile from

2002 to 2004 and deputy assistant secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs, responsible for the Andean region, the Caribbean, Haiti and Cuba from 1999 to 2002. From 1998 to 1999, he was principal deputy assistant secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement. Mr. Brownfield has also served in Geneva, Buenos Aires, San Salvador, Caracas and Panama City.



U.S. Representative to the United Nations and the Security Council of the United Nations, with the rank of ambassador.

John C. Danforth of Missouri, a former member of the U.S. Senate, is the new U.S. Representative to the United Nations and the Security Council of the United Nations, with the rank of ambassador. Until recently, he was a partner with Bryan Cave LLP, a national and international law practice. He served two terms as attorney general of Missouri before being elected to the U.S. Senate in 1976. He was re-elected in 1982 and 1988. Sen. Danforth was active in supporting programs to reduce hunger and malnutrition throughout the world. Mr. Danforth is married and has five children.



U.S. Ambassador to the Federative Republic of Brazil.

John J. Danilovich of California is the new U.S. Ambassador to the Federative Republic of Brazil. He served as U.S. Ambassador to Costa Rica from 2001 to 2004. Before that, he was active in the international shipping business and served on the board of directors of the Panama Canal Commission. He was chairman of Americans Abroad for President George W. Bush and also for former President George H. W. Bush. Ambassador Danilovich is married and has three children.



Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Intelligence and Research.

Thomas Fingar of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Executive Service, is the new Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research. He twice served as acting assistant secretary of INR, was principal deputy assistant secretary of the bureau from 2001 to 2003 and was deputy assistant secretary for analysis from 1994 to 2000. Before that, he was a China and East Asia specialist for INR. Prior to joining the Department, Mr. Fingar held a variety of positions at Stanford University, including senior research associate in the Center for International Security and Arms Control and director of the U.S.-China Relations Program.

APPOINTMENTS



U.S. Ambassador to the Republics of Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea. R. Niels Marquardt of California, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, is the new U.S. Ambassador to the Republics of Cameroon and

Equatorial Guinea. He previously served as special coordinator for diplomatic readiness, where, from 2001 to 2004, he was responsible for coordinating the largest increase in recruiting, hiring and training in the Department's history. His overseas assignments as an economic officer have taken him to Germany, France, Thailand and the Republic of the Congo. Prior to joining the Foreign Service in 1980, Mr. Marquardt served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Rwanda. He is married and has four children.



U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea. Jackson McDonald of Florida, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, is the new U.S. Ambassador to Guinea. From 2001 to 2003, he served as U.S. Ambassador to The Gambia. Since joining the Foreign Service

in 1980, he has also served in Bangladesh, Lebanon, France, the Soviet Union, Kazakhstan and Côte d'Ivoire. He was principal officer in Marseille and deputy chief of mission in both Almaty and Abidjan. He is married and has three children.



Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, with the rank of Ambassador at Large. John R. Miller of Washington, a former member of the U.S. House of Representatives, is the new Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and senior

advisor to Secretary Powell on human trafficking. While in Congress, from 1985 to 1993, Mr. Miller served on the House Committee on International Relations and was a member of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. He was active in furthering the struggle of Eastern European countries to gain freedom from the then-Soviet Union.



U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Nepal. James F. Moriarty of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, is the new U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Nepal. He served as special assistant to the President and senior

director for Asian Affairs at the National Security Council from 2002 to 2004. He joined the NSC as director for Asian Affairs in July 2001. He has also served in Rabat, Mbabane, Islamabad, Beijing and Taipei. He is married to Lauren Moriarty, a career diplomat, and has two children.



U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia. Thomas B. Robertson of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, is the new U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia. Most recently he was a career development officer in

the senior division of the Bureau of Human Resources. From 2001 to 2002 he was director for Russian Affairs at the National Security Council. He served as deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Budapest from 1998 to 2001. He has also served in Moscow and Bonn. He and his wife Antoinette have two children.



U.S. Ambassador to the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. John D. Rood of Florida, chairman of the Vestcor Companies, is the new U.S. Ambassador to the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. He founded Vestcor in 1983 as a brokerage for multi-family properties. Under his

direction, the firm expanded to include real estate investments, development, construction and property management services. He is a commissioner of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and a founding board member of First Coast Family and Housing Foundation, Inc., a not-for-profit organization that owns and develops affordable housing.

APPOINTMENTS



U.S. Ambassador to the Gabonese Republic and to the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe. R. Barrie Walkley of California, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, is the new U.S. Ambassador to the Gabonese

Republic, serving concurrently as U.S. Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe. He was Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea from 2001 to 2004. After joining the Foreign Service in 1982, he served in Yaounde, Lahore, Pretoria and Islamabad and as deputy chief of mission in Kinshasa. He and his wife Annabelle served as Peace Corps volunteers in Somalia. They have two children.



U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Chad. Marc M. Wall, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, is the new U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Chad. He directed the economic policy staff in the Bureau of African Affairs from 2002 to 2003

and headed the economic section at the American Institute in Taiwan from 1997 to 2000. He has also served in Beijing, Harare and Abidjan. He is married to Eunice Reddick, a career diplomat. They have two children.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

FOREIGN SERVICE RETIREMENTS

Baker, Stephen P.	Jacks, Karen R.	Schertz, Mary L.
Chapman, Suzanne B.	Jacobs, James M.	Schoonover, Brenda B.
Chaveas, Peter R.	Lacroix, Diane M.	Stirling, Gordon John
Donnelly, Martin T.	Miles, Donna R.	Torrance, Thomas Edward
Gnehm Jr., Edward W.	Orlowski, Sylvia J.	Virden, Richard A.
Haag, David R.	Owens, Barbro Appelquist	Yeager, Kenneth R.
Hamilton, John Alexander	Quiroz, Walter O.	Young Jr., Harry E.
Hrinak, Donna Jean	Richey, William E.	
Huffman, Larry Dean	Rische III, Elwood B.	

CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENTS

Alexander, Cynthia Faye	McNeilly, Sandra J.
Alkire, David F.	Parker, Yvonne Leola
Bright, Frank W.	Perelli, Jean L.
Brown, Dorothy L.	Pigg, Mary Theresa
Bryant, Flora B.	Price, Adrienne E.
Fludd, Jerry J.	Pridgen, Laurretta D.
Garcia-Frias, Jose R.	Salazar, Emilia F.
Glenn, Sandra A.	Stokes, Juanita P.
Holderfield, Dorothy A.	Thompson, Cynthia Hoban
Jackson, Brenda Delois	Walker, Gloria J.
Litschauer, Virginia L.	

O B I T U A R I E S



Sharon Bagwell Akalovsky, 61, wife of retired Foreign Service officer Alexander Akalovsky and a former Foreign Service secretary, died April 4 in Washington, D.C., of breast cancer. Her overseas postings included Kabul, Hong Kong, Bern, Saigon, Berlin and Lusaka. After leaving the

Foreign Service, she worked as a legal secretary and developed her considerable talent as an artist. Her watercolors earned high marks from juries at a number of local art exhibits.

Francine L. Bowman, 63, a retired Foreign Service officer, died of cancer in Asheville, N.C., Nov. 4, 2003. She retired in 1991 after overseas postings to Athens, Vietnam, Chile, Mexico, Havana, Conakry, Abidjan, Luxembourg, Bahrain and Asunción. In 1995 she served as an administrative officer for the Summit for the Americas in Miami. She was active in her church, the Life After Cancer organization and other volunteer groups in Asheville.



Josephine Hart Brandon, 87, wife of retired Foreign Service officer Howard R. Brandon, died of Alzheimer's disease March 27, 2003, in Madison, Ga. She accompanied her husband on overseas assignments to Montreal, La Paz, Algiers, New Delhi, Buenos Aires, Paris

and Luxembourg.



Maria C. Brownell, 79, widow of retired Foreign Service officer Josiah H. Brownell, died July 31 of pneumonia in Anaheim, Calif. She met her husband while working in the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City and accompanied him to postings in Korea, Bolivia, Venezuela,

Okinawa and Chile.



Barbara Burns Faul, former Foreign Service secretary, died May 28 in Canberra, Australia. She joined the Department in 1950 and was posted to Canberra and Sydney, where she worked for two ambassadors and a consul general. After being posted to Rangoon, she left the

Department to marry an Australian. She later worked for the Attorney-General's Department and the Australian National University.



Adella Upchurch Hansford, 76, widow of retired Foreign Service Medical officer Dr. David P. Hansford, died July 30 in Cedar Park, Texas. She accompanied her husband to overseas postings in Monrovia, Addis Ababa, Pretoria and Bangkok and was known for heading support

groups for new spouses at post.



Valeria Kovach Hebert, retired Foreign Service officer and wife of retired Foreign Service officer Louis Hebert, died May 27 in Washington, D.C. She worked at embassies in Syria, Iran, Vietnam and France. She was medically retired shortly after her marriage and accompanied

her husband on postings to several countries.



Robert J. MacQuaid, 82, a retired Foreign Service officer, died May 1 of prostate cancer in Cojutepeque, El Salvador. He served in the Navy during World War II and joined the Department in 1947. His overseas postings included Montreal, Amman, Jakarta,

Kuala Lumpur, San Salvador, Port of Spain and Caracas. After retirement, he taught English and ran a small farm in El Salvador.

O B I T U A R I E S



Edward Thomas "Tom" Pinch, 76, a retired Foreign Service officer, died of cancer May 1 in Middletown, Conn. He joined the Department in 1949, left briefly to serve in the U.S. Army and returned to the Department. His overseas postings included Athens, Karachi,

Bombay, Lucknow, New Delhi and Brasilia. During his retirement in Berkeley, Calif., he occasionally worked as an escort officer and interpreter for the Department's International Visitor Program and did volunteer work for the mentally ill.



Jean Royal Tartter, 78, a retired Foreign Service officer, died April 2 of cancer in Arlington, Va. His overseas postings included Austria, Scotland, Canada, Poland and South Africa. As an economic analyst, he advised U.S. businesses and investors and represented the United

States at world security and trade conferences. After retiring in 1980, he contributed to country studies for a series published by the Library of Congress.



William Nelson Turpin, 80, a retired Foreign Service officer, died July 21 of complications from a stroke in Annapolis, Md. He was a Marine during World War II and a Rhodes Scholar. After joining the Department in 1948 he served in Belgrade, Moscow, Munich, The Hague,

Saigon and Mexico City. He specialized in Soviet and Eastern European economies and international trade and finance. He also worked for the Treasury Department, where he was special assistant to Secretary C. Douglas Dillon, and for the U.S. Information Agency. After retirement from the government, he taught economics, English, Greek, and Latin at various universities and schools.

IN THE EVENT OF DEATH

Questions concerning deaths in service should be directed to the Employee Services Center, the Department's contact office for all deaths in service: Harry S Truman Building, Room 1252, Department of State, Washington, DC 20520-1252; (202) 647-3432; fax: (202) 647-1429; e-mail: EmployeeServicesCenter@state.gov.

Questions concerning the deaths of retired Foreign Service employees should be directed to the Office of Retirement at (202) 261-8960, Retirement@state.gov.

Questions concerning the deaths of retired Civil Service employees should be directed to the Office of Personnel Management at (202) 606-0500, or through their web site at <http://www.opm.gov>.

IT'S ROTATION TIME
JOBS ARE OPEN SO
LET'S MEET
THE
CANDIDATES

CANDY BACON: BROADWAY RAZZLE DAZZLE
AND POLICY EXPERTISE

COME ON, BABY -
I WANNA
SANKTION
YA!



VERNAL FELDMAYER: LACKING ALL THE
INFORMATION...

WAIT - THIS
JOB HAS
NO REGIONAL
VENTRILQUIST
RESPONSIBILITIES?

WE JUST FLEW
IN FROM PORT
MORESBY, AND BOY
ARE MY ARMS TIRED!



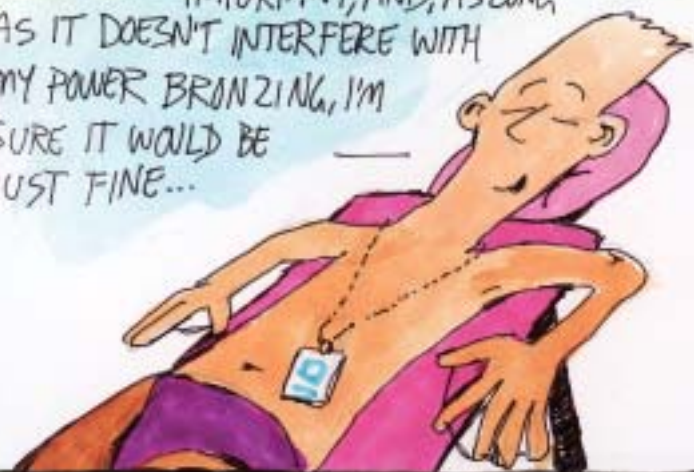
ORVILLE MILYENSZAR: DOWNSTRETCH

IF I DON'T GET
THIS JOB,
I'LL GRIEVE!
ON THE OTHER
HAND, IF I GET
THIS JOB I EXPECT
TO FILE A VARIETY
OF OTHER GRIEVANCES...



MAURICE "GOLDEN" TOPEKA: LIFESTYLE
BID...

I'M SURE THIS JOB IS
IMPORTANT, AND, AS LONG
AS IT DOESN'T INTERFERE WITH
MY POWER BRONZING, I'M
SURE IT WOULD BE
JUST FINE...



VONDA SIM: UNBRIDLED AMBITION

I'D KILL FOR THIS
JOB - WELL, I MEAN
ONLY IF THE JOB
REQUIRED IT -
AND I'D MAKE
IT LOOK LIKE
AN ACCIDENT...



AGUIER 2004

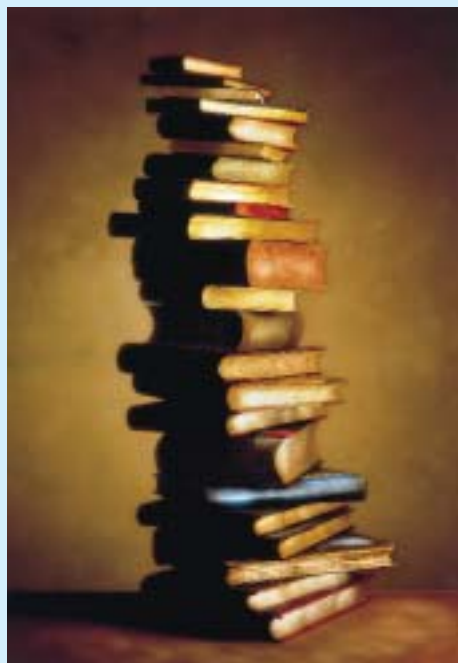
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October 16-17

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Main State, Exhibit Hall

10 am-4 pm